High court grants bail to YouTuber Ducky Bhai

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Monday granted post-arrest bail to YouTuber Saadur Rehman alias Ducky Bhai in a case of promoting gambling apps on social media.

Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry heard the bail petition of the Youtuber, who was arrested in August.

He is currently in jail on judicial remand and approached the high court for his release after a judicial magistrate and an additional district and sessions judge denied him bail.

The prosecution accused him of being a member of an international gambling racket and promoting gambling applications for huge money.

Advocate Imran Raza Chadhar presented arguments on behalf of the petitioner and pointed out that the allegations mentioned in the FIR were baseless.

He stated that the petitioner's wife had, in fact, registered a case against the officials of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) for alleged misuse of authority and extorting money to favour her husband in the investigation.

The lawyer argued that the co-suspects in the case of alleged gambling applications had already been granted bail. He said the maximum punishment for the alleged offence under the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act 2018 is three-year — making the offence bailable.

He asked the court to order the release of the petitioner on bail.

After hearing the argument, the judge allowed the bail to the petitioner subject to furnishing surety bonds of Rs1 million.

His wife, Aroob Jatoi, has secured pre-arrest bail in the same case while the anti-corruption wing of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had arrested six NCCIA officials accusing them of misuse of authority and extorting money from the family of the YouTuber.

Earlier, the FIA had told a magistrate that more than Rs25 million had been recovered from the officials, including additional director Sarfraz Chaudhry, deputy director (acting in-charge) Muhammad Zawar Ahmad, assistant directors Shoaib Riaz and Mujtaba Zafar and sub-inspectors Ali Raza and Yasir Ramzan. All these officials are in jail on judicial remand.

Anti-smog campaign

School, college buses with high emissions to be seized from Dec 4

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday imposed a province-wide ban on substandard buses and heavy vehicles used by all public and private schools, colleges, universities and hospitals in an anti-smog campaign from Dec 2.

Despite anti anti-smog operations, Lahore recorded an average AQI of 200 on Monday, with levels spiking above 392 in the early hours.

According to IQAir, air quality remained unhealthy as the PM2.5 concentration was higher than the WHO's annual guideline.

The most polluted areas included Allama Iqbal Town, Barki, Bedian Road, DHA-5, AC Saddar/Cantt, Johar Town, Civil Secretariat and Askari 10. The MET Office forecast dry weather for the next 24 hours. Other cities of Punjab including Sialkot recorded 323 AQI, Multan 258 and Rawalpindi 214.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directed educational and healthcare institutions to immediately subject their transport fleets to inspection and certification under the Vehicle Inspection and Certification System (VICS) and warned that non-compliant vehicles will be impounded.

EPA Director General Dr Imran Hamid Sheikh issued the orders under Section 15 of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act 1997, which prohibits operation of smoke-emitting or noisy vehicles.

He said the crackdown is aimed at eliminating vehicular pollution caused by faulty and poorly maintained buses that transport thousands of students and staff daily.

The DG said that substandard, smoke-emitting and unfit buses would not be allowed to operate under any circumstances and institutions failing to meet the prescribed standards would face strict legal action. "If a substandard vehicle is caught, there will no longer be just a fine, the vehicle will also be seized," he warned.

He also made VICS certification immediately mandatory for all heavy transport vehicles (HTVs) used by educational institutions, hospitals and industrial units.

District environment officers were directed to inspect fleets and issue direction slips and impound vehicles that fail to comply within the given deadline.

The DG said the enforcement drive is part of Punjab's toughest anti-smog measures to date. "Environment-damaging vehicles are now banned from entering roads. There will be zero tolerance for pollution-causing vehicles in Punjab," he said.

Meanwhile, EPA launched a crackdown and conducted 132000 inspections in the province in 20 months.

According to Dr Sheikh 132,000+ inspections were conducted across the province and 2,498 industrial units demolished and 2,499 sealed for violating environmental laws, 3,912 FIRs registered for what the DG described as "environmental terrorism."

He said that Rs 288 million in fines was imposed on polluting industries.

The EPA also carried out extensive operations against plastic pollution, construction dust, stubble burning, and bird hazards, seizing 421,967 banned plastic items, sealing 312 sites, and inspecting 676 construction sites.

Dr Sheikh described the ongoing efforts as a "war against pollution," saying the government would not allow any institution to endanger public health through negligence.

The crackdown on institutional buses, he added, would be enforced strictly from December 2, with district administrations, police, VICS authorities and all relevant departments instructed to ensure full compliance.

First 'bone bank' for reconstructive, transplant procedures in Punjab

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: The Lahore General Hospital (LGH) has established a 'bone bank', the first-ever such facility in any public sector teaching hospital of Punjab, and second in the country after the one in the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), with the prime objective of reconstructing bone defects and use in transplantation.

The initiative is declared a milestone in registering, processing, preserving, distributing and storing bone allografts -- tissue grafts from a donor of the same species as the recipient but not genetically identical.

The monitoring authority of the Punjab Human Organ Transplant Authority (P-HOTA) accorded approval to the project.

A senior doctor says that the prime object of the bone bank is to collect, process and store bone tissue for use in future surgical and transplant procedures.

It is vital for providing allogeneic bone grafts, used when a patient requires bone material due to a defect in his own or for a revision surgery.

The process involves surgically extracting a bone, screening it for any disease, and then processing and storing it through methods like freezing or freeze-drying.

Sharing the background perspective of the facility, the senior doctor says that the first modern bone bank was established in the USA in 1949, driven by the need to address bone defects from war injuries. Since then, he says, bone banks have been established in various countries, such as India in 1988 and Pakistan in 2015 at the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT).

The LGH bone bank is the first such facility in Punjab, established and made functional following years-long efforts made under the supervision of senior orthopedic surgeon and head of the unit, Prof Dr Mian Mohammad Hanif.

Prof Hanif's work in orthopedics includes his contributions to the new Pain Clinic at the LGH.

He has specialised in areas like arthritis management, back pain and bone fractures.

The senior medic says that the newly established facility will raise the confidence of the orthopedic surgeons in the use of bone allografts.

The facility will allow the surgeons at the LGH to retrieve the bones from patients and preserve the same in the bone bank for later use in hip, knee joint replacements, foot bones reconstruction and other such purposes.

The department will also collect bone donations, he says, adding that the LGH has opened a way forward for the other government sector teaching hospitals to also excel in this specialty. To a question, he says, the orthopedic department had forwarded the case to P-HOTA for approval after completing all the required formalities.

The P-HOTA team paid many visits to examine the bone bank's processes which involved a rigorous questionnaire for choosing donors, a complete bacteriological and serological examination, as well as standard practices for registering, processing, preserving, distributing, and storing bone allografts.

The authority accorded approval to the LGH facility when it found out the bank had also a strict control over all stages, including the formation of well-trained harvesting teams, processing techniques, safety of transplanted tissues, and the required standards for bone bank operation, Prof Hanif says.

Dengue claims three lives in Lahore

LAHORE: Dengue outbreak claimed lives of three patients, including two women, here on Monday.

The deaths of the three persons the same day and that too in the provincial capital is being taken as a strong warning for the health authorities and the public as well.

The dengue-related deaths were reported for the first time in 2025 as the health department officially notified them on Monday.

As per reports, patients Moeez (18), and Rimsha (34) were shifted to a private hospital in Johar Town some days back.

Similarly, another patient Shabana (54) was taken to the Mayo Hospital with high grade fever, flu and chest pains.

An official said the medics sent the blood samples to labs which declared them positive for the dengue virus.

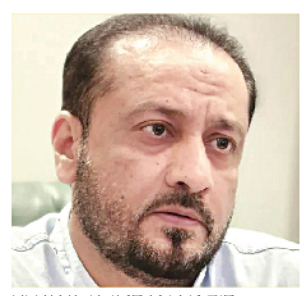
During treatment, the condition of these patients aggravated and they succumbed to the disease, he said.

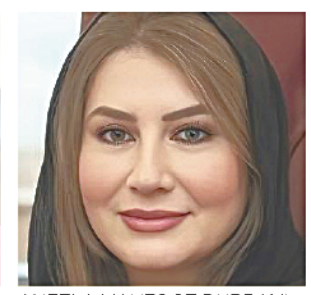
According to official figures, the number of positive cases has risen to 4,117 with a majority of them reported in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Gujranwala and Murree. — **Staff Reporter**

At the Pakistan Population Summit 2025

"The population growth rate is like a time bomb set to explode. And our problem related to unemployment, poor healthcare and education shortfalls are early warning triggers to this."

Saira Afzal Tarar


KHAWAJA IMRAN NAZIR
MINISTER HEALTH & POPULATION PUNJAB

SHAHNAZ WAZIR ALI
EDUCATIONIST

ANEELA MAHFOOZ DURRANI
SECRETARY, HIGHER EDUCATION KP

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MINISTER OF STATE, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

DR. AZRA FAZAL PECHUHO
MINISTER HEALTH & POPULATION SINDH

JAVAID ALI MANWA
MEMBER GILGIT-BALTISTAN ASSEMBLY
SAIRA AFZAL TARAR
COORDINATOR POPULATION PUNJAB
RAJA MUHAMMAD RAZZAQUE
POPULATION ACTIVIST AJK
SHAKEEL QADIR KHAN
CHIEF SECRETARY BALOCHISTAN

CENTRE-PROVINCE COORDINATION ON POPULATION

04:05 PM, DEC 1

This session of the Pakistan Population Summit 2025 will examine the need for strong coordination between federal and provincial governments to implement policies that balance population growth with available resources. Chaired by Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Minister of State for National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination, the session will focus on building a new national consensus on achieving population equilibrium. Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Health and Population Welfare Minister, Sindh, and Khawaja Imran Nazir, Health and Population Welfare Minister, Punjab, will contribute key insights. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Former MNA, will moderate a panel highlighting how education, youth training, and food and health programs can support sustainable demographic outcomes. Panelists include Saira Afzal Tarar, Coordinator on Population Welfare to Chief Minister Punjab; Dr. Aneela Mahfooz Durrani, Secretary, Higher Education Department, KP; Shakeel Qadir Khan, Chief Secretary Balochistan; Javaid Ali Manwa, MPA, GB; and Raja Muhammad Razzaque, Former Secretary, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

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